# *The Origins and Development of the English Language Chapter 5: The Old English Period, Part 2*

John Algeo

Michael Cheng
National Chengchi University

# *Features of Old English: Quick Overview*

- OE is a *synthetic* language; it uses case endings and other inflections to mark syntax
- n,v,adj,det, and pronouns all heavily inflected
- weak and strong declensions of nouns and adjs
- weak and strong conjugations of verbs
- Gmc vocab; 85% is no longer in use in MnE
- words form from compounds, prefixing and suffixing; little borrowing
- gender was grammatical, not natural

# *Sounds of Old English*

- r is trilled
- sc is pronounced sh, /š/
  - disc > dish
- cg is pronounced dj or / ǰ/
  - ecg > edge
- • f, þ, ð, s could be voiced or voiceless
- • hw, gn, kn all pronounced: hwaet, gnaw,
- cneo, ‘knee’

- Unlike MnE, OE has high, front, rounded vowels:
  - yrre, ‘angry
  - ystig, ‘stormy’

# *OE Gender is Grammatical*

- wif, neuter
- mann, masculine
- wifmann, ‘woman,’ is masculine
- natural gender begins replacing grammatical gender as inflections are lost

# *OE Inflection: The Cases of Nouns*

- nominative
- accusative
- genitive
- dative
- instrumental

# A simple OE noun declension for *fisc*, ‘fish’

| | Singular | Plural |
|---|---|---|
| Nominative | *fisc* | *fiscas* |
| Accusative | *fisc* | *fiscas* |
| Genitive | *fisces* | *fisca/fiscana* |
| Dative | *fisce* | *fiscum* |
| Instrumental | *fisce* | *fiscum* |

# *Adjectives have declensions too*

## *good man*

| | Singular | Plural |
|---|---|---|
| Nominative | *god guma* | *gode guman* |
| Accusative | *godne guman* | *gode guman* |
| Genitive | *godes guman* | *godra guman* |
| Dative | *godum guman* | *godum guman* |

# *OE Personal Pronouns*

| | singular | dual | plural |
|---|---|---|---|
| first person | I | we two | we |
| N | *ic* | *wit* | *wē* |
| A | *mec, mē* | *unc, uncit* | *usic, us* |
| G | *mīn* | *uncer* | *user, ure* |
| D | *mē* | *unc* | *ūs* |

| | singular | dual | plural |
|---|---|---|---|
| second person | you | you two | you |
| N | *ðū* | *git* | *g*ē |
| A | *ðec, þē* | *inc, incit* | *ēowic, ēow* |
| G | *ðin* | *incer* | *ēower* |
| D | *ðē* | *inc* | *ēow* |

# *Third person: he, it, she, they*

| | Masc | Neu | Fem | Plural |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | *hē* | *hit* | *hēo, hīe* | *hēo, hīe* |
| A | *hine* | *hit* | *hēo, hīe* | *hēo, hīe* |
| G | *his* | *his* | *hire* | *hira, heora* |
| D | *him* | *him* | *hire* | *him, heom* |

# Phonology and Orthography

# OE Alphabet

| Letter | Sound(s) | Example | Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| a | a | stānn | ‘stone’ |
| b | b | bæð | ‘bath’ |
| c | k (tʃ) | cald | ‘cold’ |
| d | d | dōð | ‘do’ (imperative) |
| e | e (ɛ) | hēr | ‘here’ |
| f | f (v) | fæst | ‘fast’ |
| g | g (j, ɤ) | glæd | ‘shining, gracious’ |
| h | h (x, ç) | hālig | ‘holy’ |
| i | i (ɪ) | tīd | ‘time’ |
| l | l | līnen | ‘linen’ |

# OE Alphabet

| Spelling | Sound(s) | Example | Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| m | m | mete | ‘food’ |
| n | n (ŋ) | nacod | ‘naked’ |
| o | o (ɔ) | tōð | ‘tooth’ |
| p | p | pæð | ‘path’ |
| r | r | rīpan | ‘to reap’ |
| s | s (z) | stēap | ‘high, steep, deep’ |
| t | t | tam | ‘tame’ |
| u | u (ʊ) | fūl | ‘foul, vile’ |
| y | ü | synn | ‘sin’ |

# OE Alphabet: Different letters

| Spelling | Sound(s) | Example | Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| Æ, æ (ash) | æ | æsc | 'ash' |
| *P*, *p* (wynn) | w | *p*ī̆se (wī̆se) | 'wise' |
| Þ, þ (thorn) | θ, ð | þing | 'thing' |
| Ð, ð (eth, crossed 'd') | θ, ð | bæð | 'bath' |
| ȝ (yogh) | g (j, ɤ) | ȝēar (gēar) | 'year' |
| sc | ʃ | scēap | 'sheep' |
| cg | dʒ | edg | 'edge' |

# OE Spelling and Pronunciation

- OE is very phonetic
- No silent letters in OE
  - hwat 'what'
  - cnēow 'knee'
  - gnǣt 'gnat'
- No "standard"
  - scield, scild, scyld

ç

x ɣ

# OE Phonemes: Consonants

| Manner of Articulation | Voicing | Place of Articulation | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | bilabial | labiodental | interdental | alveolar | palato-alveolar | palatal | velar | glottal |
| stops | –V | p | | | t | | | k | |
| | +V | b | | | d | | | g | |
| nasals | +V | m | | | n | | | | |
| fricatives | –V | | f | θ | s | ʃ (š) | | h | |
| affricates | –V | | | | | tʃ (č) | | | |
| | +V | | | | | dʒ (ǰ) | | | |
| liquids | +V | | | | l r(ɹ) | | | | |
| glides | +V | w | | | | | | | |
| flaps | +V | | | | | | | | |

# OE Allophones of /f/

| [v] Between voiced sounds | | [f] Everywhere else | |
|---|---|---|---|
| hræfn | 'raven' | fæst | 'fast' |
| æfre | 'ever' | lēaf | 'leaf' |
| | | sceaft | 'shaft' |
| | | NB: pyffan | 'to puff' |

# OE Allophones of /θ/

| [ð] Between voiced sounds | [θ] Everywhere else |
| --- | --- |
| ōðer ‘other’ | wiþ ‘with’ |
| cweþan ‘to speak’ | ðunor ‘thunder’ |
| | NB: smiðde ‘smithy’ |

# OE Allophones of /s/

| [z] Between voiced sounds | | [s] Everywhere else | |
|---|---|---|---|
| wīsa | 'leader' | wīs | 'wise' |
| rīsan | 'to rise' | fæst | 'fast' |
| | | sōþ | 'sooth' |
| | | NB: kyssan | 'to kiss' |

# OE Allophones of /n/

| [ŋ] Before velar stops | [n] Everywhere else |
| --- | --- |
| singan ‘to sing’ | sendan ‘to send’ |
| hǣðung ‘heating’ | þunor ‘thunder’ |

# OE Allophones of /k/

| [tʃ] Next to a front vowel | | [k] Everywhere else | |
|---|---|---|---|
| sprǣc | 'speech' | cwæþ | 'speech' |
| ceaster | 'chester' | clǣne | 'clean' |
| benc | 'bench' | cū | 'cow' |
| | | NB: sticca | 'stick' |

- or where there used to be a front vowel

- bēc from bōci = books (lost in ModE)
- sēcan from sōcyan = seek as in beseech
- swylc from swylic = such
- ælc from ælic = each
- hwylc from hwylic = which

- Paul Meier IPA charts
- http://www.paulmeier.com/ipa/charts.html
- http://www.paulmeier.com/ipa/consonants.html
- http://www.paulmeier.com/ipa/vowels.html

# OE Allophones of /g/

| [j] Next to front vowels | [ɣ] Between back vowels; after l, r | [g] Everywhere else |
|---|---|---|
| gīet 'yet' | sagu 'saw' | græs 'grass' |
| gēar 'year' | fylgan 'to follow' | glēsan 'to gloss' |
| manig 'many' | beorg 'barrow' | gān 'to go' |
| NB: affixes ge-, -ig | | gyltig 'guilty' |

(h before vowels and l, r, n *hnappian*, w *hwīt*)

# OE Allophones of /h/

| [x] After back vowels | [ç] After front vowels | [h] Everywhere else |
|---|---|---|
| leoht ‘light’ | miht ‘might’ | hām ‘home’ |
| þurh ‘through’ | sihð ‘sight’ | hring ‘ring’ |
| hēah ‘high’ | cniht ‘boy’ | hlāf ‘loaf’ |

# *Consonants with allophones*

| | Labial | Dental | Alveolar | Postalveolar | Palatal | Velar | Glottal |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Nasal** | m | | n | | | (ŋ) | |
| **Stop** | p b | | t d | tʃ (dʒ) | | k g | |
| **Fricative** | f (v) | θ (ð) | s (z) | ʃ | (ç) | (x) (ɣ) | h |
| **Approximant** | | | r[1] | | j | w | |
| **Lateral** | | | l | | | | |

# OE Vowels

| | Front | | Central | Back | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| High | ü | *mȳs* 'mice' | | u | *hūs* 'house' |
| | i | *īs* 'ice' | | | |
| | ɪ | *hit* 'it' | | ʊ | *hund* 'dog' |
| Mid | e | *spēd* 'luck' | | o | *sōθ* 'truth' |
| | ɛ | *wel* 'well' | | ɔ | *folc* 'folk' |
| Low | æ | *læst* 'last' | | ɑ | *hlāf* 'loaf' |

# Length in OE

- Consonants
  - bed ‘prayer’
    bedd ‘bed’
  - fȳlan ‘to befoul’
    fȳllan ‘to fill’

- Vowels
  - æt [æt] ‘at’
    ǣt [æ:t] ‘ate’
  - fæt [fæt] ‘vessel, utensil’
    fǣt [fæ:t] ‘gold ornament’
  - ran [ran] ‘ran’
    rān [ra:n] ‘roebuck (pl)’

**Marking of length**

- In OE: double letter
- IPA: colon (:)
- Edited texts:
  - Macron (ā)
  - Double letter
  - Acute accent (á)

# OE Diphthongs

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| • ea | æ + a | heall | 'hall' |
| • eo | e + o | hēold | 'hold' |
| • ie | i + e | hīeran | 'hearken, hear' |

# *OE Dipthongs (later)*

- *ēa* [æ:+ə] bēatan ‘beat’
- *ēo* [e:+ə] crēopan ‘creep’
- *ea* [æ+ə] eall ‘all’, geard ‘yard’, seah ‘saw
- *eo* [ɛ+ə] eoh ‘horse’, meolc ‘milk’, weorc ‘work’

# *Practice*

| OE | 1st | 2nd | PDE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. gold | g j ɣ | | |
| 2. dysig | s z | g j ɣ | |
| 3. bohte | h ç x | | |
| 4. cēacbān | k č (tʃ) | k č (tʃ) | |
| 5. hæfde | f v | | |
| 6. hwæðer | h ç x | θ ð | |
| 7. seofan | s z | f v | |
| 8. heorte | h ç x | | |

# *Answers*

| OE | 1st | 2nd | PDE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. gold | g j ɣ | | g gold |
| 2. dysig | s z | g j ɣ | z j dizzy |
| 3. bohte | h ç x | | x bought |
| 4. cēacbān | k č (tʃ) | k č (tʃ) | č k cheekbone |
| 5. hæfde | f v | | v had (haved) |
| 6. hwæðer | h ç x | θ ð | h ð whether |
| 7. seofan | s z | f v | s v seven |
| 8. heorte | h ç x | | h heart |

# *More Practice*

| OE | 1st | 2nd | PDE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9. senden | s z | n ŋ | |
| 10. hlehhan | h ç x | h ç x | |
| 11. cirice | k č (tʃ) | k č (tʃ) | |
| 12. niht | n ŋ | h ç x | |
| 13. grētan | g j ɣ | n ŋ | |
| 14. hring | h ç x | n ŋ | |
| 15. cȳþþ | k č (tʃ) | θ ð | |
| 16. græg | g j ɣ | g j ɣ | |

# *Answers*

| OE | 1st | 2nd | PDE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9. senden | s z | n ŋ | s n to send |
| 10. hlehhan | h ç x | h ç x | h ç laugh |
| 11. cirice | k č (tʃ) | k č (tʃ) | č č church |
| 12. niht | n ŋ | h ç x | n ç night |
| 13. grētan | g j ɣ | n ŋ | g n to greet |
| 14. hring | h ç x | n ŋ | h ŋ ring |
| 15. cȳþþ | k č (tʃ) | θ ð | k θ kith |
| 16. græg | g j ɣ | g j ɣ | g j grey |

# *Identify the following words*

| OE |
|---|
| 1. calfian |
| 2. cild |
| 3. sæd |
| 4. þæt |
| 5. fyr |
| 6. scēap |
| 7. calf |
| 8. brycg |
| 9. þæc |
| 10. æfter |

| OE |
|---|
| 11. þorn |
| 12. geong |
| 13. glǣm |
| 14. hǣþen |
| 15. cēap |
| 16. offrian |
| 17. ofer |
| 18. scip |
| 19. wīf |
| 20. cāsere |

| OE |
|---|
| 21. wifel |
| 22. ðing |
| 23. græs |
| 24. gield |
| 25. dīc |
| 26. clēofan |
| 27. prēost |
| 28. cwēn |
| 29. cēosan |
| 30. weorþe |

# Exercise II: OE Sounds

Using your knowledge of OE phonology, identify the following words.

| OE | PDE |
|---|---|
| 1. calfian | to calve |
| 2. cild | child |
| 3. sæd | sad |
| 4. þæt | that |
| 5. fyr | fire |
| 6. scēap | sheep |
| 7. calf | calf |
| 8. brycg | bridge |
| 9. þæc | thatch |
| 10. æfter | after |

| OE | PDE |
|---|---|
| 11. þorn | thorn |
| 12. geong | young |
| 13. glǣm | gleam |
| 14. hǣþen | heathen |
| 15. cēap | cheap |
| 16. offrian | offer |
| 17. ofer | over |
| 18. scip | ship |
| 19. wīf | wife |
| 20. cāsere | kaiser |

| OE | PDE |
|---|---|
| 21. wifel | weevil |
| 22. ðing | thing |
| 23. græs | grass |
| 24. gield | yield |
| 25. dīc | ditch |
| 26. clēofan | to cleave |
| 27. prēost | priest |
| 28. cwēn | queen |
| 29. cēosan | to choose |
| 30. weorþe | worthy |

# *The Lord's Prayer in Old English*

## *Matthew 6:9-13.*

1. Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum;
2. Si þin nama gehalgod
3. to becume þin rice
4. gewurþe ðin willa
5. on eorðan swa swa on heofonum.
6. surne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todæg
7. and forgyf us ure gyltas
8. swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum
9. and ne gelæd þu us on costnunge
10. ac alys us of yfele soþlice

1. Father our thou that art in heavens
2. be thy name hallowed
3. come thy kingdom
4. be-done thy will
5. on earth as in heaven
6. our daily bread give us today
7. and forgive us our sins
8. as we forgive those-who-have-sinned-against-us
9. and not lead thou us into temptation
10. but deliver us from evil. truly.

- This version of the Lord's Prayer is from Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 140 [WSCp], a translation of the Gospels written in Bath in the first half of the 11th century; edited by Liuzza (1994). Read by Cathy Ball (Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University) for Edward Vanetten's Sunday School class.

# *Vocabulary*

# OE Borrowings (Celts)

## Place names

Thames
Dover
London
Cornwall
Carlisle

## Geographic terms

| | |
|---|---|
| Water, river | *avon, exe, esk, usk, dover, wye* |
| Hill | *barr, bredon, bryn, creech, pendle* |
| Deep valley | *combe* |
| High rock | *torr, tor* |
| Tidal creek | *pylle, pill* |
| Badger | *brocc, brock* |

# OE Borrowings (Romans, pre-English)

## War

| | |
|---|---|
| *camp* | 'battle' |
| *sǣgn* | 'banner' |
| *strǣt* | 'road, street' |
| *mīl* | 'mile' |

## Wine Trade

| | |
|---|---|
| *wīn* | 'wine' |
| *must* | 'new wine' |
| *eced* | 'vinegar' |
| *flasce* | 'flask, bottle' |

## Trade

| | |
|---|---|
| *cēap* | 'bargain' |
| *mangian* | 'trade' |
| *mangere* | 'monger' |
| *pund* | 'pound' |

## Domestic Life

| | |
|---|---|
| *cytel* | 'kettle' |
| *mēse* | 'table' |
| *scamol* | 'bench' |
| *sigel* | 'brooch' |

# OE Borrowings (Romans, pre-English)

| Food | | Buildings | | Others | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *cīese* | 'cheese' | *cealc* | 'chalk' | *mūl* | 'mule' |
| *spelt* | 'wheat' | *copor* | 'copper' | *draca* | 'dragon' |
| *pipor* | 'pepper' | *pic* | 'pitch' | *pāwa* | 'peacock' |
| *senep* | 'mustard' | *tigele* | 'tile' | *pīpe* | 'instrument' |
| *cisten* | 'chestnut' | | | *biscop* | 'bishop' |
| *butere* | 'butter' | | | *cāsere* | 'emperor' |
| *ynne* | 'onion' | | | *sæternesdæg* | 'Saturday' |
| *plūme* | 'plum' | | | | |
| *pise* | 'pea' | | | | |
| *minte* | 'mint' | | | | |

# OE Borrowings (Romans, Celts)

## Place names

| | |
|---|---|
| *ceaster* | 'camp' |
| *port* | 'harbor, gate, town' |
| *munt* | 'mountain' |
| *torr* | 'tower, rock' |
| *wīc* | 'village' |

## Others

| | |
|---|---|
| *candel* | 'candle' |
| *cest* | 'chest' |
| *earc* | 'ark' |
| *mægester* | 'master' |
| *mynster* | 'monastery' |
| *peru* | 'pear' |
| *sealm* | 'psalm' |
| *cros* | 'cross' |

# OE Borrowings (Romans, Early Christian)

| Religious | | Domestic Life | | Others | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *abbod* | 'abbot' | *socc* | 'sock' | *scōl* | 'school |
| *ælmesse* | 'alms' | *seolc* | 'silk' | *magister* | 'master' |
| *engel* | 'angel' | *purpuran* | 'purple' | *fers* | 'verse' |
| *arc* | 'ark' | *cemes* | 'shirt' | *mēter* | 'meter' |
| *candel* | 'candle' | *bēte* | 'beet' | | |
| *cugele* | 'cowl' | *peru* | 'pear' | *ancor* | 'anchor' |
| *discipul* | 'disciple' | *ostre* | 'oyster' | *fēfer* | 'fever' |
| *ymen* | 'hymn' | *pīn* | 'pine' | *spongia* | 'sponge' |
| *martyr* | 'martyr' | *lilium* | 'lily' | *talente* | 'talent' |
| *nōn* | 'noon' | *mealwe* | 'mallow' | *fenix* | 'phoenix' |
| *organa* | 'organ' | *plantian* | 'plant' | | |
| *palma* | 'palm' | | | | |
| *psealma* | 'psalm' | | | | |

# OE Borrowings (Romans, Benedictine Reform)

| Religious | | Nature | | Others | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *alb* | 'alb' | *gingifer* | 'ginger' | *titul* | 'title' |
| *antichrist* | 'antichrist' | *periwince* | 'periwinkle' | *plastrum* | 'plaster' |
| *apostol* | 'apostle' | *petersilie* | 'parsley' | | |
| *canticle* | 'canticle' | *camel* | 'camel' | | |
| *crisma* | 'chrism' | *tiger* | 'tiger' | | |
| *crēda* | 'creed' | | | | |
| *dalmatice* | 'dalmatic' | | | | |
| *prīm* | 'prime' | | | | |
| *sabat* | 'sabbath' | | | | |

- Second half of 10th century, better educated clergy, built new churches, established schools, copying of English and Latin manuscripts

# OE Borrowings (Early Scandinavian)

## Sea & Battle

| | |
|---|---|
| *barda* | 'beaked ship' |
| *cnearr* | 'warship' |
| *scegþa* | 'vessel' |
| *liþ* | 'fleet' |
| *dreng* | 'warrior' |
| *hā* | 'oarlock' |
| *bātswegen* | 'boatswain' |
| *orrest* | 'battle' |
| *rān* | 'robbery' |

## Social, Admin

| | |
|---|---|
| *lagu* | 'law' |
| *ūtlagu* | 'outlaw' |
| *māl* | 'action at law' |
| *hūsting* | 'assembly' |
| *wapentake* | 'district' |

## Translations

| | |
|---|---|
| *bōtlēas* | 'what cannot be compensated' |
| *hāmsōcn* | 'attacking the enemy in his house' |
| *lahcēap* | 'payment for reenty into lost legal rights' |
| *landcēap* | 'tax paid when land was bought' |

# OE Borrowings (Later Scandinavian)

| Daily life | | Names | | Others | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *band* | *kid* | *-by* | 'farm, town' | *bothe* | 'both' |
| *bank* | *leg* | *-thorp* | 'village' | *sum* | 'some' |
| *birth* | *loan* | *-thwaite* | 'isolated' | *ālopt* | 'aloft' |
| *bull* | *root* | *-toft* | 'piece of ground' | *semely* | 'seemly' |
| *die* | *sister* | *-son* | 'son of' | | |
| *dirt* | *skirt* | | | *earun* | 'are' |
| *down* | *sky* | | | *they, their, them* | |
| *egg* | *steak* | | | *hī, hiera, him* | |
| *fellow* | *thrift* | | | | |
| *guess* | *want* | | | | |

# OE Borrowings (Later Scandinavian):

## What happened with similar words?

### English

| ON | OE |
|---|---|
| *skel* | *sciell* |
| *screde* | *scrēade* |
| *geit* | *gāt* |
| *hvel* | *hwēol* |

### Both kept

| ON | OE |
|---|---|
| *nei* | *nā* |
| *reisa* | *rǣran* |
| *skinn* | *hȳd* |
| *skrækja* | *shriken* |

### Scandinavian

| ON | OE |
|---|---|
| *awe* | *ege* |
| *egg* | *ǣg* |
| *syster* | *sweostor* |
| *lān* | *lǣn* |

### Collapsed to one

| ON | OE |
|---|---|
| *fastr* | *fæst* |
| *myrkr* | *mirce* |
| *skrapa* | *scrapian* |

# Is a word English or Scandinavian?

## Sound differences

| OE [ʃ] | ON [sk] |
|---|---|
| 'shirt' | 'skirt' |
| 'fish' | 'whisk' |

| OE [o:] | ON [e:] |
|---|---|
| 'no' | 'nay' |
| 'hole' | 'hale' |

| OE [j] | OE [g] |
|---|---|
| 'yield' | 'guild' |

| OE [tʃ] | OE [k] |
|---|---|
| 'ditch' | 'dike' |

## Meaning differences

| OE | ON 'bloom' |
|---|---|
| 'ingot' | 'flower' |

| OE | ON 'gift' |
|---|---|
| 'wife-price' | 'present' |

| OE | ON 'plow' |
|---|---|
| 'measure of land' | 'agricultural tool' |

# OE Semantic Shift

## Broadening

*flicorian*

OE to move wings, to flutter
PDE movement of light
PDE emotion

*barn*

OE place to store barley
PDE agricultural building

*aunt*

OE father's sister
PDE either parents' sister

## Narrowing

*wǣd*

OE any garment
PDE mourning clothes

*wēod*

OE herbs and grass in general
PDE unwanted plants

*swǣtan*

OE to exude liquid
PDE to exude water

# OE Semantic Shift

## Amelioration

*prættig*
- OE tricky, sly, wily
- PDE attractive

*fond*
- OE foolish
- PDE affectionate

*cniht*
- OE boy
- ME man-at-arms
- PDE honorable military rank

## Pejoration

*sælig*
- OE happy, prosperous
- ME naïve
- PDE foolish

*crǣftig*
- OE skillful, strong, learned
- ME strength, skill
- PDE skill, skilled in deception

*wencel*
- OE girl
- PDE lewd woman, prostitute

# OE Semantic Change

## Shift

*clūd*

OE rock, hill
PDE vapor in the atmosphere

*gebed*

OE, ME prayer
EME rosary beads
PDE bead

*tīwesdæg, wōdnesdæg,*

*ðunrsdæg, frīgedæg*

## Result of one shift…

*hors*

OE equine

*stēda*

OE uncastrated male horse
EME spirited war horse

*stalion*

ME uncastrated male horse

# OE Compounds

## Two elements

sunbēam 'sunbeam'

dēadboren 'still born'

hwælweg 'sea'

bōchord 'library'

bōccræft 'literature'

dimhūs 'prison'

## Three elements

winterrǣdingbōc
'winter lectionary'

biterwyrtdrenc
'drink of bitter herbs'

Note:

- ≠ Verb-Adverb
- ≠ Noun-Verb
- ≠ Verb-Verb

# OE Derivational Morphology: Productive Prefixes

| Prefix | Meaning | Example | Gloss | PDE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *æfter-* | | æftercweþende | 'those speaking after' | afterdinner |
| *fore-* | earlier, front | foresprecan | 'say before' | foresee, foreleg |
| *mis-* | bad, wrong | misdǣd | 'misdeed' | misjudge, misshapen |
| *ofer-* | exceed, excessive | ofergān | 'overrun' | overcook, overexcite |
| *un-* | negative | unlȳtel | 'no little, great' | undecided, ungraceful |
| | bad, evil | unweder | 'bad weather' | N/A |
| *under-* | below | undercyning | 'under king' | underarm, underbrush |
| *ūp-* | higher | ūprodor | 'heaven above' | upbeat, upgrade |
| *ūt-* | exceed | ūtgong | 'exidus' | outbid, outdance |
| | away from | ūtādrīfan | 'drive out' | outhouse, outlaw |

# OE Derivational Morphology: Lost Prefixes

| Prefix | Meaning | Example | Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| *el-* | strange, foreign | elland | 'foreign country' |
| *ge-* | special meaning | gegān | 'conquer' |
| | together | gebrōdor | 'monk' |
| | N from V | genīp | 'darkness' |
| | A from V | gehlystan | 'sense of hearing' |
| *of-* | perfective | ofslēan | 'to slay, destroy' |
| *on-* | beginning | onbærnan | 'kindle' |
| *or-* | deprivative | orsorg | 'without care' |
| | original | oreald | 'of great age' |
| *sam-* | half, absence | samboren | 'premature' |
| *wan-* | negative | wan-hāl | 'ill, not hale' |
| *ymb-* | around | ymbfaran | 'surround' |

# OE Derivational Morphology: Frozen Prefixes

| Prefix | Meaning | Example | Gloss | PDE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ā-* | perfective prefix | āscamian | 'to have been shamed' | await, arise, ago |
| *be-* | about, near | begān | 'to surround' | beside |
| | deprive | behēafdian | 'to behead' | behead |
| *for-* | intensifier | forbēodan | 'forbid' | forgive, forget |
| *forþ-* | onward | forþbringan | 'to bring forth' | forthcoming |
| *tō-* | toward | tōcyme | 'arrival' | together, toward |
| | separation | tōdrīfan | 'drive apart' | today, tomorrow |
| *þurh-* | into and out of | þurhwadan | 'pierce, pass through' | throughout |
| *wið-* | against, from | wiþcēosan | 'reject' | withhold; withdraw |

# OE Derivational Morphology: Productive Suffixes

| Prefix | Meaning | Example | Gloss | PDE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *-dōm* | office, state | frēodōm | 'freedom' | kingdom, freedom |
| *-en* | made of, like | gylden | 'golden' | earthen, ashen |
| *-ere* | agentive N | bōcere | 'scholar' | singer, dancer |
| *-full* | characterized by | sinfull | 'sinful' | awful, powerful |
| *-hād* | state, condition | cildhād | 'childhood' | falsehood, motherhood |
| *-ig* | characterized by | sǣlig | 'silly' | dirty, icy |
| *-ing,-ung* | N from V | rǣding | 'reading' | sleeping, boating |
| *-isc* | characteristic of | cildisc | 'childish' | bookish, fortyish |

# OE Derivational Morphology: Productive Suffixes (continued)

| Prefix | Meaning | Example | Gloss | PDE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *-lēas* | lacking | feohlēas | 'moneyless' | faithless, ageless |
| *-lic* | resembling | heofonlic | 'heavenly' | catlike, verblike |
| *-ling* | quality of, small | deorling | 'darling' | duckling, yearling |
| *-nes* | quality, condition | boerhtnes | 'brightness' | happiness, goodness |
| *-þ(o)* | makes N | geogoþ | 'youth' | length, depth |
| *-scipe* | state, quality | frēondscipe | 'friendship' | citizenship, dealership |
| *-sum* | characterized by | wynnsum | 'delightful' | awesome, worrisome |

# OE Derivational Morphology: Lost Suffixes

| Prefix | Meaning | Example | Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| *-a* | agentive | eardstapa | 'earthstepper' |
| *-aþ, oþ* | N from V | fiscoþ | 'fishing' |
| *-bora* | agentive | mundbora | 'protector' |
| *-end* | agentive | hǣlend | 'healer' |
| *-ing* | son of | Æþelwulfing | 'son of Æþelwulf' |
| | associated with | hōring | 'adulterer' |
| *-mǣl* | measured by | fōtmǣl | 'foot length' |
| | mark, sign | fȳrmǣl | 'firemark' |
| *-rǣden* | abstract Ns | hierdrǣden | 'guard, guardian' |
| *-sian* | V from N, A | clǣsian | 'to clean' |
| *-ettan* | V from N, A | lāþettan | 'to hate, loathe' |
| *-lǣcan* | V from N, A | ānlǣcan | 'to unite' |

# Exercise: OE Affixes

Using your knowledge of OE affixes, figure out the meaning of these OE words

| OE word | Meaning of the root |
|---|---|
| geoguþhād | geoguþ 'youth' |
| sambærned | bærn 'burn' |
| wansped | sped 'luck, prosperity' |
| elþeod | þeod 'people' |
| ymbhweorfan | hweorfan 'move, turn' |
| mildheortnes | mildheort 'merciful' |
| deofollic | deofol 'devil' |
| modig | mod 'courage' |
| fahþu | fah 'hostile' |
| leasung | leasian 'to lie' |
| stānen | stān 'stone' |

# Exercise: OE Affixes

Using your knowledge of OE affixes, figure out the meaning of these OE words.

| OE word | Meaning of the root | PDE translation |
|---|---|---|
| geoguþhād | geoguþ 'youth' | 'youthhood' |
| sambærned | bærn 'burn' | 'half-burnt' |
| wansped | sped 'luck, prosperity' | 'ill-luck, poverty' |
| elþeod | þeod 'people' | 'strangers' |
| ymbhweorfan | hweorfan 'move, turn' | 'revolve' |
| mildheortnes | mildheort 'merciful' | 'mercifulness' |
| deofollic | deofol 'devil' | 'devil-ly, diabolical' |
| modig | mod 'courage' | 'bold' |
| fahþu | fah 'hostile' | 'hostility' |
| leasung | leasian 'to lie' | 'a lie, lying' |
| stānen | stān 'stone' | 'made of stone' |

# OE Loss

## Cultural Change

| | |
|---|---|
| *dolgbōt* | 'compensation for wounding' |
| *þeox* | 'hunting spear' |
| *eafor* | 'tenant obligation to the king to convey goods' |
| *flȳtme* | 'blood letting instrument' |

## Norman Conquest

More later…

# OE Lexicon:
## Word formation processes not used

- Blends
- Calques (loan-translation)
- Eponyms
- Generification
- Folk etymology
- Functional shift
- Shortening (Clipping, Acronym, Initialism)
- Stress shift

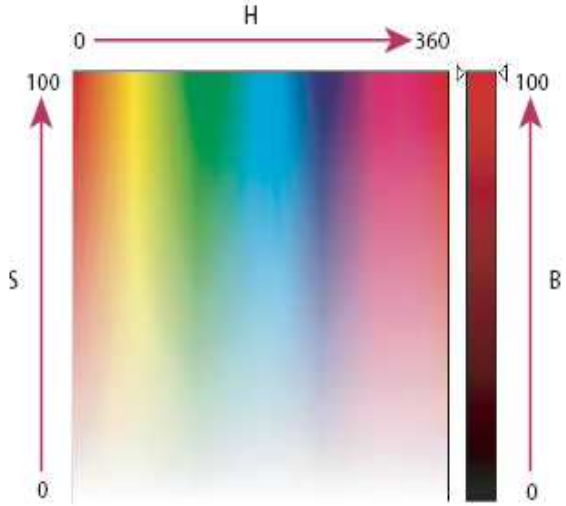
# OE Lexicon: Composition

- OE is very Germanic
- 65%-85% loss
- Misleading…

| | English | French | Latin | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | 96% | 0% | 0% | 4% |
| 1000 | 83% | 11% | 2% | 4% |
| 2nd 1000 | 34% | 46% | 11% | 9% |
| 3rd 1000 | 29% | 46% | 14% | 11% |
| 4th 1000 | 27% | 45% | 17% | 11% |
| 5th 1000 | 27% | 47% | 17% | 9% |

# OE Color terms

- Five basic dimensions of color
  - –Hue gradation of color
  - –Saturation vividness
  - –Brightness intensity of color
  - –Luster reflection of light
  - –Scintillation sparkling



# OE Color Terms

## Saturation

| | |
|---|---|
| *fealu* | 'dusky' |
| *dunn* | 'dingy' |
| *hasu* | 'ashen' |
| *hār* | 'hoary' |
| *wann* | 'dark' |

## Luster

| | |
|---|---|
| *lēoma* | 'gleam' |
| *glæd* | 'shining' |
| *blīcan* | 'glitter' |
| *lȳman* | 'shine' |
| *brūn* | 'metallic shine' |

## Brightness

| | |
|---|---|
| *scīr* | 'bright' |
| *beorht* | 'bright' |
| *torht* | 'bright' |
| *scīma* | 'brightness |

## Scintillation

| | |
|---|---|
| *sprican* | 'sparkle' |
| *scimerian* | 'shimmer' |
| *blēobrygd* | 'scintillation' |
| *brigd* | 'play of color' |
| *tȳtan* | 'sparkle' |